AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

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16. (Cancelled)

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18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Cancelled)

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface between nodes of the telecommunications system, wherein a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport network layer comprises:

a link layer protocol;

Internet Protocol on top of the link layer protocol;

UDP Protocol on top of the Internet Protocol;

wherein the Internet Protocol and the UDP Protocol are utilized in lieu of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols;

wherein the interface is one of: (1) an interface between a core network and a radio access network which carries circuit switched connections; (2) an interface between a radio network controller (RNC) and a base station; and (3) an interface between two radio network controllers (RNCs); and

wherein UDP port numbers of the UDP Protocol are used as connection identifiers.

42. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, the Internet Protocol is immediately above the link layer protocol in the transport network layer.

43. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the interface carries a circuit switched connection.

44. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the link layer protocol is Ethernet protocol.

45. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein in the Internet Protocol a sequence number is carried in one of an IP option field and a Ipv6 extension header, the sequence number being used for rearranging incoming IP datagrams.

46. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 41, wherein the protocol stack of the protocol architecture further comprises, in a radio network layer, a frame handling protocol on top of the UDP Protocol.

47. (Currently Amended) A telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface between nodes of the telecommunications system, wherein a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport network layer comprises:

a link layer protocol;

Internet Protocol on top of the link layer protocol;

UDP Protocol on top of the Internet Protocol; and

RTP Protocol on top of the UDP Protocol, and

wherein the Internet Protocol, the UDP Protocol, and the RTP protocol are utilized in lieu of Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols;

wherein the interface is between a radio access network and a core network and carries circuit switched connections.

48. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47, wherein in the RTP Protocol one synchronization source (SSRC) identifier is allocated to each circuit switched connection between the node in the radio access network and the node in the core network.

49. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 47, wherein the RTP Protocol compresses plural RTP packets in an IP datagram.

50. (Previously Presented) A method of operating a telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface between nodes of the telecommunications system, the interface being one of: (1) an interface between a core network and a radio

access network which carries circuit switched connections; (2) an interface between a radio network controller (RNC) and a base station; and (3) an interface between two radio network controllers (RNCs); the method comprising:

including in, a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport network layer, the following:

a link layer protocol;

Internet Protocol on top of the link layer protocol;

UDP Protocol on top of the Internet Protocol;

using the protocol stack for replacing Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols conventionally employed as transport layer protocols over the interface; and

using UDP port numbers of the UDP Protocol as connection identifiers.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, the Internet Protocol is immediately above the link layer protocol in the transport network layer.

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the interface carries a circuit switched connection.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the link layer protocol is Ethernet protocol.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein in the Internet Protocol a sequence number is carried in one of an IP option field and a Ipv6 extension header, the sequence number being used for rearranging incoming IP datagrams.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein the protocol stack of the protocol architecture further comprises, in a radio network layer, a frame handling protocol on top of the UDP Protocol.

56. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a telecommunications system having a protocol architecture over an interface between a radio access network and a core network which carries circuit switched connections, the method comprising:

including, in a protocol stack of the protocol architecture in the transport network layer, the following:

a link layer protocol;

Internet Protocol on top of the link layer protocol;

UDP Protocol on top of the Internet Protocol; and

RTP Protocol on top of the UDP Protocol;

using the protocol stack for replacing Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) and ATM Adaptation Layer 2 (AAL2) protocols conventionally employed as transport layer protocols over the interface.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising allocating, in the RTP Protocol, one synchronization source (SSRC) identifier to each circuit switched connection between the node in the radio access network and the node in the core network.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56, further comprising using the RTP Protocol to compress plural RTP packets in an IP datagram.